



Sen. Edward Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy and their children at JFK's grave



Gonzalez, counsel Sprague: Two-year probe

characterized many Congressional committees. He and Sprague intend to hire 170 people to staff two separate teams—one for each murder. Their work could last two years and cost \$4 million. Says Sprague: "I want an investigation where, if somebody says, 'But did you look into this possibility?' I can say, 'Yes, we did'." The question is whether thirteen years after JFK's death and eight years after King's a comprehensive inquiry can really be conducted—and even if it can, whether it will answer all the doubts about their murders.

—SUSAN FRAKER with STEPHAN LESHER in Washington

INVESTIGATIONS: Back to Square One

At daybreak, members of the Kennedy family prayed at the grave of John F. Kennedy. In Dallas, where the President was shot, more than 300 people attended a memorial service that had nearly been canceled for lack of interest. But while Americans marked the thirteenth anniversary of Kennedy's assassination last week, Congress was beginning yet another investigation of it. In what may become the nation's most extensive Congressional inquiry, the House Select Committee on Assassinations has subpoenaed records of the Kennedy murder and begun hiring a staff. At the request of the Congressional Black Caucus, the select committee will conduct a simultaneous investigation into the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many critics have never been satisfied

with the conclusion of previous investigations—that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot Kennedy, and that James Earl Ray, acting alone, shot King. But a more important reason for another major inquiry into the Kennedy and King deaths seems to have been the recent disclosures of malfeasance and lawbreaking by the CIA and the FBI. The charges provoked strong suspicions that neither agency cooperated fully with—and may even have impeded—earlier investigations.

Plots: Both the CIA and FBI, for instance, are thought to have withheld information about possible Cuban connection in Kennedy's death. Despite speculation that the government of Fidel Castro might have been involved in the Kennedy assassination—perhaps in retaliation for CIA efforts to kill Castro—the CIA did not tell the Warren commission of its plots against the Cuban leader. Recently, the Justice Department also uncovered a 1964 memorandum by the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, saying that Oswald, about two months before the assassination, had told Cuban officials in Mexico that he intended to kill the President. Hoover attributed this information to an informant who claimed to have been told it by Castro. The Hoover memo was reportedly addressed to the Warren commission, but former staffers said they had no recollection of receiving it.

The committee also has some intriguing questions to consider about King's assassination. It is known that the FBI—which led the original investigation into King's death—waged a campaign to discredit him that continued even after his death. Last week the committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague, said he found it "most unusual" that authorities did not fully interrogate Ray, demand that he tell all he knew about King's murder. Sprague, 51, a Philadelphia prosecutor who led the team that convicted former mineworkers' boss W.A. (Tony) Boyle for the Yablonski murders, is also checking reports that documents relevant to the King case may have been burned last September in Memphis (Tennessee officials denied the reports).

Texas Democrat Henry Gonzalez, who is expected to chair the select committee when the new Congress convenes in January, has promised an investigation free of the headline hunting that has

*At about the same time, Oswald telephoned the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City and offered to trade information some sort for a trip to Russia. But it was revealed last week that the CIA, which intercepted the conversation, did not make a complete transcript of it available to either the FBI or the Warren commission.